

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 /091 W
----- 008234

P R 291025Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2317

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3745

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: TENSIONS INCREASE IN LANA O PROVINCES

1. EMBASSY RELIABLY INFORMED THAT LANA O DEL SUR PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY (PC) PROVINCIAL COMMANDER COL. ROGACIANO ESPIRITU WAS AMBSUHD AND KILLED BY ARMED MARANAO MUSLIMS ON MORNING MARCH 29 ON LANA O DEL SUR/LANA O DEL NORTE BORDER. AMBUSH FOLLOWS INCIDENT IN MID-MARCH IN WHICH MUSLIM VICE-MAYOR OF A LANA O DEL NORTE MUNICIPALITY WAS SHOT BY THE PC AND SUBSEQUENTLY DIED.

2. COMMENT: CIRCUMSTANCES OF AMBSUH INDICATE THAT REVENGE FOR DEATH OF MUSLIM VICE-MAYOR MAY HAVE MOTIVATED ATTACK ON PC COLONEL. WHILE FURTHER DETAILS NOT AVAILABLE, THIS INCIDENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE TENSIONS IN TWO LANA O PROVINCES. MARANAO MUSLIMS, SEVERAL THOUSAND OF WHOM ARE WELL-ARMED, HAVE SO FAR LARGELY REFRAINED FROM INVOLVEMENT IN INSURRECTION IN MUSLIM AREAS OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS RECEIVED REPORTS IN PAST TWO MONTHS OF RISING

TENSION. IN RECENT WEEKS SOME MARANAO MUSLIMS IN MANILA
HAVE BEEN RETURNING TO MARAWI CITY, AND, AS A RESULT OF
THIS MORNING'S INCIDENT, SMALL CHRISTIAN POPULATION OF
MARAWI CITY IS EVACUATING TO ILLIGAN. WHETHER THESE
SIGNS POINT TO SERIOUS FIGHTING IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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To: STATE
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005